Need to Standardize Packaging Supplier Evaluations



Packaging Management Workshop

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Background

 The DOE Packaging Management Council formed a task group to evaluate and write a White Paper on the need for standardization of Packaging Supplier Evaluations



Background (Cont'd)

 Multiple DOE contractors are performing redundant supplier evaluations for procurement of packaging used for the shipment of DOT regulated hazardous materials including wastes



Background (Cont'd)

 There is no current standardization of the supplier evaluation process or qualification standards for individuals performing these evaluations



Objective

 To establish a uniform approach for the evaluation of packaging suppliers to determine their ability to provide packaging of a known quality that is technically and legally defensible



Objective

- Establish a mechanism for sharing audit results with the DOE complex thus reducing or eliminating redundant audits
- To improve the quality of packaging supplier audits



Benefits

- Reduced travel costs
- Uniformity
- Reduced redundancy of effort
- List of evaluated suppliers
- Improve quality
- Reduce liability
- Reduce PAAA enforcement actions



- Contractors at many of the DOE sites conduct multiple evaluations of the same packaging supplier's which results in significant unnecessary expenditures
- Methods used to perform evaluations and report results vary among contractors
- Quality Assurance evaluation results are not communicated to other contractors



- DOE Quality Assurance Policy Guidance does not require development and implementation of a coordinated packaging supplier evaluation Quality Assurance Program
- DOE does not require contractors to coordinate efforts, develop uniform standards or methods, or communicate the results of their evaluations to other contractors



 The lack of a coordinated packaging supplier evaluation program results in excessive costs, duplication of effort, and potentially may place DOE and its contractors at risk that its decisions on quality, regulatory, worker health and safety and environmental matters may be based on unreliable data



Recommendations

 It will be recommended that DOE/NTP endorse the development of a standardized process for performing packaging supplier evaluations



Conclusions

 The PMC will be conducting a survey of the major DOE site's packaging representatives in order to better understand how packaging supplier evaluations are performed



Conclusions

 The PMC will be developing a White Paper to DOE recommending a standardized and uniform approach for performing supplier evaluations and the sharing of information, thus reducing the overall effort and liability to DOE and its contractors